

RMA Operations Committee Conference Call
8/12/09

On Call: Todd Richardson-Chair, Don Mitchell-Vice Chair, Jim McMahonill, Todd Pechota, Joe Lowe, Paul Summerfelt

Present at RMC: Cliff Hutton, Ken Kerr, Kelly Kane, Jim Fletcher, Debbie

Intent of the conference call is review progress on past tasked items, RMA activity updates and decisions and to discuss new tasking from RMCG that was given to Todd via Bill Ott and Ted Moore.

Action Item: Todd R. will send out the letter regarding the tasking on the WFDSS Technology Support Group. He had been working with Shane Del Grosso and Paul Langowski in coming up with inputs.

Voting Disparity. Scott and Don were assigned to keep track of any issues that come up on this topic through the summer. It will be left as a **bin item for the fall meeting**. The Ops committee still feels it is an issue at times. Joe Lowe pointed out that each State Rep (and this same issue will come up with execs) are bound within rules & regs within any given state. Some decisions made we can't abide by because of statutory rules in place.

Don was assigned to **review our charter**, in regards to tracking when we are tasked with things that go to RMCG. Important that taskings have a clear line of direction and reflect leaders intent. Should come to us through Ken Kerr, our RMCG liaison. Ken, that is why we (RMCG) have tried really hard with recent taskings to communicate clearing leaders intent, so that you (Operations Committee) can respond with the minimum amount of effort to what RMCG is looking for.

Discussed how this way of doing business needs to be passed from chair to chair, and within committee members, both the RMCG and Ops Comm., especially with new members coming in so there is a good understanding of what we are striving for. **Include as bin item for the fall meeting.**

Kelly Kane is our new USFS Representative; she will be transitioning with Scott Sugg through the Fall Operations Committee meeting.

Todd R. is still trying to find out if there will be a new State of Wyoming Rep behind Mike (Hoss) Hostetler. Hoss was a great conduit with the IHC folks. Scott Sugg, Jim McMahonill and Cliff Hutton have provided excellent

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communication and the leadership link with RMA IHC. Scott will continue as the IHC Rep for the USFS.

Also want to acknowledge Shawn Telford for the great work he has done as the IHC liaison. Issues included the draw down levels in the RMA Mob Guide and new IHC Certification Process. The new national certification came in after we had gone to print, but hit all the issues that we had.

The **Drawdown levels** did get discussed, but was too late for the 2009 mob guide. We will **put this in the bin items for the fall meeting.**

Discussion on Preparedness Levels and how they work with new policy implementation. The National and Geographic Mob Guide PL levels needs to be adjusted to reflect these changes.

Jim F. - got together today with the PL3 Operations and Planning group discussing same issue. Ken, in those discussions there was also concern regarding the national PL's, and guidance, how they go up down etc, and how it is reflected in the RMA mob guide. If we don't end of changing the RMA mob guide, we will at the least list at the end of the section how we are going to reflect that within our reports. The new products coming from the Predictive Services are great, but the flow chart in the mob guide erases or discredits them. We need to look at a technology and science based system, and input from people being paid to decisions. Right now it is not a very good guide for 2009.

Action Item: Todd R. will send the new tasking out via email.

Joe - During Hahnenbergs rotation, AKC ordered a Ty 2 Team and NIC placed it with the SWC. Why did they jump over our region?

Todd R. did notice that the coordination centers do work together to an equitable end, and although it is not readily obvious, there are reasons why they chose to fill out of the SWC. One thought is that they were basically done with their fire season.

Action Item: Todd will send new tasking for the influenza virus.

RMCG would like us to discuss what we would do #1-have the virus run through camp and knock down your people and #2-when we get ordered how to deal with some of the stuff like inoculations.

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Ken recommends that we lay out different levels of what the teams would be asked to do. Our primary goal is to make sure our IC's and C&G have a heightened awareness of what is listed in the tasking.

Todd R.-Nimo Teams may be helpful in training teams in these sorts of scenarios, if you look at the original intent of Nimo teams working with training policies, rules, etc. Or you could schedule time with the CDC or State/County Health officials.

There are two phases of this. #1. Are we going to respond to an H1N1 outbreak and to assist? #2. If we are on the incident, how do we protect ourselves and work with it.

Todd Pechota-A little background, there are some people on his teams who have taken it upon themselves to become very educated on these sorts of things. It has now gotten to the point where it has become overwhelming. There is more stuff coming out than they can keep up with. He would like some clear leaders intent of what exactly we are going to be expected to do.

Action Item - Todd P. will email information from R5 to what they already have in place.

Have people send some detailed thoughts so that the RMCG can begin to start thinking about it. Perhaps your team has a sort of flowchart of what we will accept and what we can't.

Joe, it would be a good **agenda item for the next mtg.**

Kelly - Todd P. brought up an important point. We need to be sure that we don't blow this out of proportion. There is bad stuff that happens all the time. It boils down to all our FFt's have the right to refuse the assignment in the first place. Our RMA IC's are very competent, give them the information and we can go forward. Kelly, recommends that we make contacts on our own, garner that information and discuss at a later meeting.

Add on-several weeks later, decided that the Fall Operations Committee will be October 7th & 8th, beginning at 0800, at the Rocky Mt. Coordination Center.